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OLC 78-3425  
28 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: 28 November 1978 White House Meeting Regarding 1979 SALT Ratification Effort in the Senate (U)

STAT 1. [ ] Deputy Legislative Counsel, and I attended a meeting today called by Bob Beckel, Foreign Policy and Defense Coordinator in the White House Congressional Office, to discuss next year's SALT ratification effort. Also attending were: (U)

Dan Tate	White House Congressional Staff
Kathy Smith	State Department Congressional Staff
Bryen Atwood	State Department Congressional Staff
Tom Graham	Arms Control Disarmament Staff
Jack McNeil	Arms Control Disarmament Staff

2. Beckel opened the meeting by stating he believed the SALT ratification effort would have to be error-free in order to succeed. He stated that although the effort to ratify the Panama Canal Treaty was successful, some errors were made and he seeks to avoid repetition of past errors. Beckel believes success or failure will depend largely on the efforts of certain Members of this group, who will mastermind ratification strategy, e.g., by deciding what Administration member discusses SALT with which Senator. (U)

3. Beckel circulated a list representing the White House's present view of how Senators would vote on a SALT treaty. It was decided that a senior Administration spokesman, either Secretary Brown, Secretary Vance or National Security Advisor Brzezinski would meet in December with each new Senator to discuss SALT. Mr. Miller stated the Director should not be a part of this effort, on the grounds that the Director must be above the SALT debate in fact and in appearance. However, he surmised that the verification issue was so important that Members would come to Turner. Beckel agreed and stated he thought CIA would have a particularly important role in ratification because of the verification issue. (U-IUO)

4. Beckel indicated that a number of new Members plus a few senior Senators were invited to a three hour foreign policy orientation meeting featuring the President, Brzezinski, Secretary Brown and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The meeting will be held 30 November and one hour of the three hour session will be devoted to SALT. Beckel indicated the President would personally meet with

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key Members regarding SALT in December, including Senator John Stennis (D., Miss.). Beckel said he hoped that there would be no substantive briefings of Senators by principals without a Member of this liaison group present. (U-IUO)

5. In response to questions, Beckel and Tate indicated that it was very likely that a SALT agreement would be sent to Congress as a treaty, but that the White House was retaining flexibility on this issue. Beckel said he expected the treaty to be submitted in late January or early February. (U)

6. There will be regular weekly meetings of Beckel's group. (U)



STAT

Assistant Legislative Counsel

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OLC:DFM:hms (5 December 1978)

Rewritten:OLC:DFM/LLM:hms (14 December 1978)